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Commission on the Status of Women
Fiftieth session
27 February-10 March 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work;
      (ii) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15[1] of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission held its first meeting of its fiftieth session on 22 March 2005 and elected, by acclamation, Ms. Carmen María Gallardo (El Salvador) as Chairperson and Ms. Adekunbi Abibat Sonaike (Nigeria), Ms. Szilvia Szabo (Hungary), Mr. Dicky Tomar (Indonesia) and Mr. Thomas Woodroffe (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Vice-Chairpersons of the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Commission.

The Commission will also designate a Vice-Chairperson to serve as Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

The Commission will further approve the nomination of two candidates to fill the pending vacancies on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2005/299.

Preparations for the fiftieth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

As per past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of Members and Observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to ten minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate, taking into consideration their geographical location, and that they also participate in each of the panels on the thematic issues.

[1] The list of members of the Commission at its fiftieth session is included in annex II to the present report.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

Review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The General Assembly, in paragraph 46 of its resolution 57/270 B, requested the functional commissions to examine their methods of work and to report on the outcome of that examination to the Council no later than 2005.

At its forty-eighth session, the Commission adopted decision 48/101 containing specific actions to enhance its working methods, and decided, at its forty-ninth session, to continue its discussions on the subject at its fiftieth session (decision 49/101).

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

In 1987, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed multi-year work programme. In accordance with Council decision 2005/299, the Commission will develop a multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2011. In this regard, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission with recommendations for enhancing its methods of work as well as proposals for future themes (General Assembly resolution 60/140).

Measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: review of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes

In section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report under item 3, on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. This request was most recently reiterated in General Assembly resolution 60/140. The Commission will have before it the requested report.

In paragraph 10 of its resolution 49/4, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fiftieth session, on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, bearing in mind its two thematic issues as outlined in its multi-year programme of work.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2005/43 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning

Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2005/8 on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission, at its fiftieth session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

In its resolution 48/3, the Commission requested the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children taken hostage. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of that resolution, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations. The report of the Secretary-General is before the Commission.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In its resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint workplan on the human rights of women for the then Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 2005/42, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the cooperation and coordination between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) aimed at mainstreaming the human rights of women, including through their joint workplan. The Secretary-General was encouraged to ensure implementation of the joint workplan, to continue to elaborate this plan on an annual basis, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify obstacles/impediments and areas for further collaboration and to submit them to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Commission on the Status of Women on a regular basis (see Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/42, para. 13). The Commission will have before it the joint workplan.

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

In its resolution 59/164, on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions on the implementation of that resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system. The Commission will hear an oral report by

the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on that resolution.

Economic advancement of women

In its resolution 49/8, the Commission on the Status of Women recognized that improving women's economic status also improves the economic status of their families and their communities and thereby creates a multiplier effect for economic growth. It recognized also that women should have equal opportunities to achieve economic independence, since discrimination against women and lack of equal access to education, training, financial services, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and other economic resources, property and inheritance rights and other legal protections pose a major obstacle to sustainable economic growth, sustainable development and the sustainable economic advancement of women. It further emphasized that full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making in societies enhances socio-economic development policies. In this regard, the Secretary-General was requested to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session. The report of the Secretary-General is before the Commission.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on the Status of Women will be provided with such information.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's thirty-fourth session (16 January to 3 February 2006) will be before the Commission.

Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women

In its resolution 49/3 on the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to consider at its fiftieth session the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, bearing in mind the existing mechanisms with a view to avoid duplication, and in this regard, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on the implications of the creation of a position of special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women and to include in this report the views of

the Member States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report of the Secretary-General is before the Commission.

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 49/6, the Commission requested the Executive Director of the Institute to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on the implementation of its programme of work and strategic plan 2004-2007, in particular on those activities related to the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Commission will be provided with such information.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: review of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes (E/CN.6/2006/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2006/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2006/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2006/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2006/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic advancement of women (E/CN.6/2006/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women (E/CN.6/2006/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.6/2006/9-E/CN.4/2006/59)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2006/10)

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the implementation of its programme of work and strategic plan for 2004-2007 (E/CN.6/2006/11)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2006/CRP.1)

Documentation for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions (A/60/38)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/60/271)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council decided to include in the agenda of the Commission a sub-item entitled "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men" under the item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women". It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau.

A High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, noted that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women would consider the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invited their inputs through the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission on the Status of Women will hold a high-level panel on the theme "The Gender Dimensions of International Migration". A Chairperson's summary will be submitted, through the Economic and Social Council, to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables and authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested Members of the Commission through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of such round tables.

Further to consultations, the Bureau decided that the high-level round table to be organized at the fiftieth session of the Commission would be held under the theme "Incorporating gender perspectives into the national development strategies on implementation of the internationally agreed development goals requested in the 2005 World Summit". The Commission will have before it a discussion guide on the round table.

Documentation

Discussion guide on the high-level round table. Note by the Bureau (E/CN.6/2006/CRP.2)

Thematic issues

In its resolution 2001/4, the Council adopted the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006, including a calendar for considering the implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. The following two themes were identified for 2006: (a) enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work; and (b) equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work (E/CN.6/2006/12)

Report of the Secretary-General on equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels (E/CN.6/2006/13)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that will be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group, and

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

At its forty-eighth session, in its resolution 48/103, the Commission decided to postpone further consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1) on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and the different views and proposals put forward by Member States during the debate on the item until its fiftieth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2006/SW/Communications List No. 40)

Future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter of the President of the Council on follow-up to the Council's policy guidance.

The Council, in its resolution 2001/27, invited its functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level segment. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2006 high-level segment of the Council on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development".

Documentation

Letter dated 21 December 2005 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2006/14)

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2006 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2006/CRP.4)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fiftieth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 27 February		
10 a.m.	1. Election of officers	Designation of the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur
		Approval of nominees to membership in the Working Group on Communications
	2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Introduction of reports
		General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (c). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives	High-level round table on the theme: Incorporating gender perspectives into the national development strategies on implementation of the internationally agreed development goals requested in the 2005 World Summit
Tuesday, 28 February		
10 a.m.	3 (c) (i). Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work — Panel I	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
3 p.m.	3 (c) (ii). Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels — Panel II	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
Wednesday, 1 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Thursday, 2 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (b). Emerging issues	High-level panel on the theme "*The Gender Dimensions of International Migration*"
Friday, 3 March		
10 a.m.	3 (c) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions — Panel I)
3 p.m.	3 (c) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions — Panel II)
Monday, 6 March		
10 a.m.	3 (c) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions — Panel I)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Tuesday, 7 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions — Panel II)
		Informal consultations
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Introduction of draft proposals
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 8 March		
10 a.m.-12 noon	(Commemorative event)[a]	Observance of International Women's Day (2 hours)
12 noon-1 p.m.	5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	
3 p.m.	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 9 March		
10 a.m.	3 (c) (*continued*)	Informal consultations
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Friday, 10 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	6. Provisional agenda of the fifty-first session of the Commission	Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission
3 p.m.	7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the session

[a] Informal event to be held on the margin of the fiftieth session of the Commission.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session (2006)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Algeria	2007
Armenia	2007
Belgium	2007
Belize	2009
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2008
Congo	2007
Croatia	2009
Cuba	2006
Dominican Republic	2008
El Salvador	2008
Gabon	2006
Germany	2009
Ghana	2008
Guatemala	2006
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2009
Kazakhstan	2008

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Malaysia	2006
Mali	2009
Mauritius	2008
Morocco	2009
Netherlands	2009
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007
Peru	2009
Qatar	2009
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Suriname	2008
Thailand	2007
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2009
United Republic of Tanzania	2009
United States of America	2008